

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, BU

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV ON BULGARIAN ECONOMY IN 1976

REF: SOFIA 2784

AT TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR RECEPTION FOR CHIEFS OF
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, ZHIVKOV--PERHAPS AWARE THAT A
NUMBER OF THEM HAD MADE INQUIRIES ABOUT HOW BULGARIA
WAS ABLE TO AVOID PRICE INCREASES AND OTHER PROBLEMS
PLAGUING OTHER EE COUNTRIES--SAID FLATLY THAT
THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN PRICES DURING 1976
AND RATE OF ECONOMIC EXPANSION WOULD BE MAINTAINED.
"I REQUEST YOU TELL YOUR GOVERNMENTS", HE SAID, "THAT
THEY SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT BULGARIA." LATER, IN
MORE INFORMAL SETTING, HE MADE TWO ADDITIONAL REMARKS
ABOUT BULGARIA'S ECONOMY: THAT ABOUT "ONE BILLION
LEVA" WORTH OF ADDITIONAL GOODS WOULD BE MADE AVAIL-
ABLE TO SOP UP EXCESS PURCHASING POWER; AND THAT
"BULGARIA HAS NO COLONIALIST AMBITIONS, ALTHOUGH IT
DOES HAVE ONE COLONY: THE SOVIET UNION." LATTER
REMARK IS ONE THAT HE HAS MADE FREQUENTLY TO
VISITORS, TO INDICATE THAT BULGARIA OBTAINS RAW
MATERIALS CHEAPLY FROM THE USSR AND EXPORTS
THERE FINISHED PRODUCTS.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

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